

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 L-03 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07

NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SAM-01 AGR-05 AF-08 EUR-12

SSM-03 DHA-02 /116 W

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R 070545Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8990

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 4607

E.O. 11652\$ GDS

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION

REF: (A) STATE 216549, (B) KUWAIT 4193

1. JORDAN PRESS HAS GENERALLY CARRIED STRAIGHTFORWARD
COVERAGE OF HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (HIRC)
AUGUST 31 ACTION ON BOYCOTT AND DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT.
THE ONLY COMMENTARY PUBLISHED THUS FAR CAME FROM MUHAMMAD MAHJUB,
GENERAL COMMISSIONER OF THE ARAB BOYCOTT OFFICE. MAHJUB
SAID THAT THE BOYCOTT REGULATIONS DO NOT DISCRIMINATE AS
TO RACE, RELIGION, OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND AND THAT THE
REGULATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN ARAB
STATES. HE FURTHER STATED THAT ARAB STATES WOULD NOT
BE AFFECTED BY THE HIRC ACTION SINCE THEY CAN OBTAIN WHAT
THEY NEED FROM COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE U.S.

2. PARAS 2 THROUGH 5 OF REF B EXPRESS GENERAL OUTLINE
OF BOYCOTT SITUATION AS IT EXISTS IN JORDAN AT PRESENT.
AS IN PARA 6 OF REF B JORDANIANS ALSO MAINTAIN ATTITUDE
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OF NON-COMPREHENSION TOWARDS U.S. STANCE ON BOYCOTT SINCE

U.S. STILL MAINTAINS BOYCOTT AGAINST SEVERAL NATIONS;
I.E. CUBA, VIETNAM, NORTH KOREA.

3. LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 15 OF REF A MAY BE DIFFICULT
TO EXPLAIN TO HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS AS IT APPEARS TO BE
SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY. HOW CAN LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS
NOT INTERFERE WITH FURTHER EXPANSION OF CLOSE AND MUTUALLY
BENEFICIAL U.S. - ARAB COUNTRY ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS IF
THEY ARE IN OPPOSITION TO ADMINISGRATION POSITION,
UNLESS WE ARE CERTAIN THEY WILL NOT BE PASSED IN CURRENT
FORM.

4. RE PARA 11 REF A, EMBASSY BELIEVES GOJ WOULD BE MORE
IMPRESSED BY ADMINISTRATION ATTEMPT TO SOFTEN NEW LEGISLA-
TION AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THAN BY GESTURE OF OPPOSITION TO
ANY NEW LEGISLATION IF SOME NEW LEGISLATION INEVITABLE.
SUDDARTH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, LAW, TRADE DISCRIMINATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN04607
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760337-0568
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760987/aaaacwty.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 216549, 76 KUWAIT 4193
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTIONS TO HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION
TAGS: ETRD, JO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006